

REMARKS

By the foregoing amendment, Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 22 have been amended, and new Claims 26-35 have been added. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to the abstract of the disclosure, indicating it contains legal phraseology "means". In response to the objection, Applicant has corrected the language in the abstract, as requested by the Examiner.

Claims 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 22 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. Dependent Claims 26-34 have been added to recover the claimed subject matter removed from Claim 22. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the proposed amendment does not introduce any new subject matter. Applicant believes the above amendments remove the Examiner's objections under 37 CFR 1.75(c).

Claims 2-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 2 has been amended, deleting the recitation "around or", to partially recite, "the seat harness configured to fit over at least part of the torso", particularly defining the meets and bounds of the claim. Independent claim 1 was amended to include the term "around", and partially recite, "at least part of the seat harness passes around to the front of occupant." The basis for amending Claim 1 can be found at page 10, lines 7-8 and page 11, lines 4-5 of the Application as originally filed. Claim 35 was

added to recapture subject matter that was deleted from claim 2. It is believed that claims 2-5 are now in an allowable condition.

The Examiner additionally rejected Claims 1-5 under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Murray (U.S. 5,660,445). It is respectfully submitted that the teachings of Murray do not anticipate claims 1-5 as amended. Murray is directed to a restraint harness designed for securing a passenger to the seat while in a supine position. The reference discloses a harness having a torso side, as well as lap or shoulder belts secured to the seat being looped about a harness strap to secure the occupant in the supine position. In Murray, the seat harnesses 18a, 18b simply loop through parts of the occupant harness, without passing around to the front of any part of the occupant. Murray does not teach a harness arrangement having an occupant harness and a separate seat harness that is secured to a seat, wherein the seat harness provides additional restraint around the upper torso of the occupant, or over at least a portion of the upper torso. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-5 on grounds of anticipation by Murray should be withdrawn.

Applicant has reviewed the additional references cited in the Notice of References Cited and not applied, and it is believed that these references are no more pertinent than the references applied.

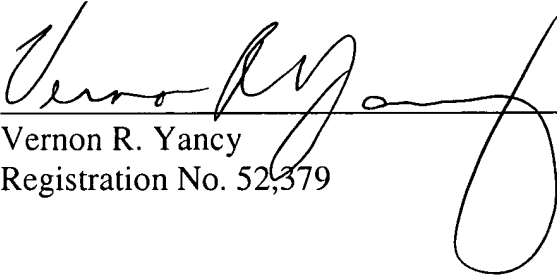
In light of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

*most;
new grounds*

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

By: 
Vernon R. Yancy
Registration No. 52,379

VRV/kst
Howard Hughes Center
6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90045
Telephone: (310) 824-5555
Facsimile: (310) 824-9696
Customer No. 24201



RECEIVED
MAY 16 2003
GROUP 3600

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE ABSTRACT

A harness arrangement for a seat, the arrangement including an occupant harness configured to be worn by an occupant of the seat, a separate seat harness securable to the seat, and [means releasably to connect] the seat harness being releasably connected to the occupant harness.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please enter amended claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 22 and substitute the amended claims for the pending claims with the same numbers.

1. (Amended) A harness arrangement for a seat, comprising:
an occupant harness configured to be worn by an occupant of the seat;
a separate seat harness securable to the seat; and
means releasably to connect the seat harness to the occupant harness, wherein at least part of the seat harness passes around to the front of the occupant.

2. (Amended) A harness arrangement according to Claim 1, wherein the seat harness is configured to fit [around or] over at least part of the torso of the occupant when the seat harness is connected to the occupant harness.

5. (Amended) A harness arrangement according to Claim 3[or 4], wherein each strap of the seat is configured for connection to the occupant harness at a point in front of the occupant when the occupant is wearing the occupant harness.

6. (Amended) A harness arrangement according to Claim 1 [any preceding claim], wherein the occupant harness is configured to fit around the abdominal area of an occupant.

8. (Amended) A harness arrangement according to Claim 3 [any preceding claim], including means to pay out the seat harness from the seat to enable the occupant to move away from the seat.

9. (Amended) A harness arrangement according to Claim 8, [when dependant upon Claim 3, 4 or 5,] wherein the means to pay out comprises at least one spring loaded pay out device.

11. (Amended) A harness arrangement according to Claim 8[, 9 or 10], wherein the means to pay out includes locking means to selectively lock the seat harness with respect to the seat.

22. (Amended) A harness arrangement according to Claim 8, wherein the means to pay out the seat harness from the seat comprises at least one spring loaded pay out

arrangement [according to any one of Claims 12 to 21] that controls the pay out of a tether line, the arrangement comprising a spring loaded pay out reel on which a tether line is wound; and

locking means configured to engage the tether line at a position spaced from the wound line of the reel to prevent pay out of the tether line from the reel independently of the spring loaded pay out mechanism.

8230.1



RECEIVED
MAY 16 2003
GROUP 360